

WYCOMBE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1958

Printed by Messrs. J. Smith

100, High Street, Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 3JH

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W Y C O M B E
R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1958

Medical Officer of Health:
A.J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B., B. Hy., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:
J.P. PERRY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1958

Chairman:

Mr W.J. TAPPING

Vice-Chairman:

Mr C. MORRIS

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 1st May, 1958

Chairman:

Mr G.B. Lee

The Chairman of the Council

The Vice-Chairman of the Council

The Ex-Chairman

The Chairman of the Finance Committee

The Chairman of the Public Works Committee

Mrs F.L.E. Bradley

Sqdr.Ldr. B. Lock

Mr H.W. Bristow

Mr H.E. Nixey

Rev. J.D. Charlesworth

Mrs F.H. Pitcher

Mrs A.M. Conoley

Mr W.J. Pollard

Mr A. Fleet

Rev. H.H. Vickers

Mr E.A. Hoath

Mrs D.M. Walker

Mrs A.S. Laing

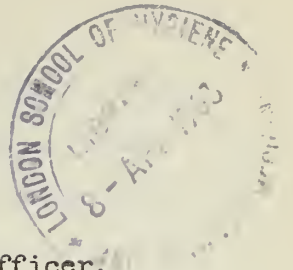
Mrs C. Wontner



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STAFF.



Medical Officer of Health:

A.J. MUIR, M.B., Ch.B., B. Hy., D.P.H.

(Also Area and Divisional School Medical Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council.

Medical Officer of Health, High Wycombe Borough and
Marlow Urban District Council).

Main Office Address:- Municipal Health Centre,
High Wycombe. Tel. H.W. 4031/2
Home Tel. H.W. 1338

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

R. HANDY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. Resigned 30th June, 1958.

T.E. ROBERTS, M.B., B.S., D(OBST) R.C.O.G., D.P.H. Appointed
23rd Sept. 1959.

(Also Assistant County Medical and School Medical Officer,
Buckinghamshire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health, High Wycombe Borough
and Marlow Urban District Council.)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J.P. FERRY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Meat Certificate.

Public Health Inspectors:

D.J. SULLIVAN, M.A.P.H.I.

S.A. LATIMER, C.R.S.H.

R.J. DAVIES, M.A.P.H.I. Resigned May 1958.

W.M. MACPHAIL, M.A.P.H.I. Appointed September 1958

Clerks:

MISS R.M. SPENCER

MRS A.F. SUTTON

Resigned November 1958

MISS S.E. BALL

Appointed November 1958

Rodent Operatives:-

E.V. BOWLER

MISS D. COOPER

Appointed August 1958

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
28, High Street,
High Wycombe.

September, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1958.

Once again there was a marked rise in the population of the district, the Registrar-General's estimate of 45,780 being no less than 1,300 above the corresponding figures for 1957 - there were 426 excess births over deaths.

There were 849 births during the year - this being an increase of 70 over the previous year.

Deaths numbered 423 - 21 more than in 1957.

There were 15 infant deaths compared with 7 in the previous year when there were 70 fewer births. Even with this 100% increase in the number of infant deaths the infantile mortality rate is only 17.7 per 1,000 and this is a highly satisfactory figure by any standard.

203 deaths - or almost half the total - were due to diseases of the heart and circulation - this is to be expected in an ageing population.

Cancer caused 77 deaths - 7 fewer than in 1957. The organ most frequently affected was the lung and there were 14 deaths from this form of the disease - only 1 death being in respect of a female. The average age at death was 60.5 years - this being exactly the same as the average for 1957.

Measles was the infectious disease most frequently notified there being 635 cases. Scarlet Fever (33) and Dysentery (10) were the only other diseases whose notifications reached double figures. Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria were absent.

In the late summer the Ministry of Health made facilities for poliomyelitis vaccination available to all persons born 1933 and subsequently. Unfortunately in contrast with the younger age group the response of the adolescents to this offer was very poor in the initial stages although later there was a considerable improvement.

I have commented briefly on the salient features of the report and more detail is given under the appropriate headings in the following pages.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Council for their interest, Mr Perry and the Public Health Staff for their help and co-operation.

A.J. MUIR

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS.

Area in acres.....	71,232
Population (1951) census.....	39,352
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid-1958.....	45,760
No. of inhabited houses on rate book (31st March, 1958)...	13,325
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1958.....	£532,916
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1st April, 1958.....	£2,529

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS

FOR THE YEAR 1958.

BIRTHS.

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	424	395	819
	Illegitimate	13	17	30
		437	412	849
Still Births	Legitimate	7	4	11
	Illegitimate	1	0	1
		8	4	12

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.....	18.6
Comparability Factor - Birth Rate.....	1.00
Adjusted local Birth Rate.....	18.6
Birth Rate of England and Wales.....	16.4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 births live and still.....	9.3

DEATHS.

Number of Deaths	-	Males	-	223
		Females	-	200
				<hr/> 423 <hr/>
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.....				9.2
Comparability Factor.....				1.04
Adjusted Local Death Rate.....				9.5
Death Rate of England and Wales.....				11.7
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Wycombe Rural District.....				0.09
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Total County.....				0.08

INFANT MORTALITY.

15 infants died under the age of one year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.....	7	8	15
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 15 <hr/>

This represents a mortality rate of 17.7 per 1,000 related births compared with 22.5 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate - 10.6, compared with a county rate of 12.7.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

- (a) From puerperal sepsis..... 0
- (b) From other maternal causes.. 0

TABLE OF DEATHS.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	3	1	4
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic diseases.....	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria.....	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.....	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections.....	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0	0	0
8. Measles.....	0	0	0
9. Other infectious diseases.....	0	1	1
10. Cancer, stomach.....	3	2	5
11. Cancer, lungs.....	13	1	14
12. Cancer, breast.....	0	9	9
13. Cancer, uterus.....	0	3	3
14. Other cancers.....	25	21	46
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	2	0	2
16. Diabetes.....	1	2	3
17. Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	26	32	58
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	37	25	62
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	5	2	7
20. Other heart diseases.....	23	37	60
21. Other circulatory diseases.....	8	8	16
22. Influenza.....	2	2	4
23. Pneumonia.....	11	14	25
24. Bronchitis.....	13	5	18
25. Other respiratory diseases.....	4	3	7
26. Gastric and duodenal ulcer.....	2	2	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	3	2	5
28. Nephritis, nephrosis.....	1	0	1

TABLE OF DEATHS. (contd)

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	3	0	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations.....	1	0	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	21	19	40
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	5	1	6
34. Other accidents.....	7	7	14
35. Suicide.....	4	1	5
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	0	0	0
All causes.	223	200	423

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.</u>	
	<u>England and Wales.</u>	<u>Wycombe Rural District.</u>
(a) Maternal causes, excluding abortion	Nil	Nil
(b) Due to abortion.....	Nil	Nil
(c) Total maternal mortality.....	0.43	0.00

CANCER DEATHS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages):-

Males.....	41
Females.....	<u>36</u>
Total.....	<u>77</u>

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

1958.....	77
1957.....	84
1956.....	79
1955.....	62
1954.....	61
1953.....	76

The following organs were effected:-

Stomach.....	5
Lungs.....	14
Breast.....	9
Uterus.....	3
Other Sites.....	<u>46</u>
Total.....	<u>77</u>

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases).....	0.09
Total Deaths - Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	4
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.09
Total Deaths - Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	0
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.00
Total Deaths - Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis).....	54
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis).....	1.18

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1958

District	Population Census 1951	Registrar-General's estimated Population Mid-1958.	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population.	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births.	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births
Bucks County	386,164	440,600	17.3	9.8	0.08	16.4	12.7	0.00
Total Urban	193,168	216,000	17.0	9.9	0.12	14.7	10.6	0.00
Total Rural	192,996	224,000	17.6	9.8	0.04	18.0	14.7	0.00
Wycombe Rural	39,352	45,760	18.6	9.2	0.09	17.7	10.6	0.00
England and Wales			16.4	10.1	0.10	22.5	16.2	0.43

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) 1958

- 10 -

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Age Periods										Age Un- known.
		Under 1 yr.	1 yrs.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs.	15 - 24 yrs.	25+		
Scarlet Fever	33	-	-	1	-	3	27	2	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	
Acute Poliomyelitis:												
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	635	18	30	68	71	87	305	24	4	2	6	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Pneumonia	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	
Dysentery	10	-	1	1	-	1	3	1	-	3	-	
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Encephalitis												
Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Post Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Totals:	689	18	51	70	71	92	336	27	5	12	7	

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1958.

Age Periods	(a)				(b)			
	New Cases		Deaths		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
35	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	4	2	-	1	2	-	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	14	6	-	4	3	1	-	-

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation against diphtheria (and, where desirable whooping-cough), is carried out in Schools and Infant Welfare Centres in your district, the arrangements being made by the County Council. It is also possible for parents to arrange for this to be done by their own doctor. Records of immunisation are kept at the County Offices.

PRIMARY IMMUNISATIONS.

Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years
351	116	22	8	2	19	1

Total: 519

BOOSTER DOSES.

1 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years
128	119	0

Total: 247

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

In the autumn of 1958 facilities for vaccination were extended to include all born 1933 and later. Although the acceptance rate in the under 15 group had been very high the response of the over 15 group was initially very poor.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS.

During the year 448 children were immunised against whooping-cough. 44 children were immunised against tetanus.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

During the year 662 primary vaccinations and 83 re-vaccinations were carried out.

VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

As in the previous year vaccination was offered to 13 year old children attending both private and Council schools. After a preliminary tuberculin test the negative reactors were vaccinated.

The proportion of acceptances was very high and it is hoped that this procedure will have some effect in reducing the incidence of the disease in young people. Recent inquiries have shown that those vaccinated are four times less likely to contract the disease.

HOSPITALS.

The available hospitals in the District are the High Wycombe War Memorial Hospital, Booker Hospital, Amersham General Hospital, Maidenhead Isolation Hospital, Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow; Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury Isolation Hospital, Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury; The Radcliffe Infirmary, Churchill Hospital and the Slade Hospital, Oxford; and the Battle Hospital, Reading.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The ambulance station situated at West End Street, High Wycombe, serves the major portion of the district.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

Section 47

-

No formal action

DETAILS OF WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to your Engineer & Surveyor for the following table:-

Parish	Supplied direct by pipes into houses.		Supplied by Standpipes.	
	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.	No. of Houses.	Estimated Population.
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton...	576	1,866	5	22
Bradenham.....	40	132	-	-
Ellesborough.....	275	910	5	18
Fawley.....	58	193	4	14
Fingest.....	554	1,329	17	58
Hambleton.....	413	1,365	12	45
Hampden, Gt & Lt.....	99	327	5	18
Hedsor.....	41	136	1	3
Hughenden.....	1,765	5,769	18	68
Ibstone.....	93	308	2	9
Kimble, Gt & Lt.....	252	830	2	7
Lacey Green.....	373	1,232	8	26
Longwick-cum-Ilmer.....	171	572	2	7
Marlow, Gt.....	546	1,789	22	77
Marlow, Lt.....	259	855	6	23
Medmenham.....	123	406	3	14
Radnage.....	183	601	3	9
Princes Risborough.....	1,874	6,208	4	15
Stokenchurch.....	782	2,580	5	18
Turville.....	105	348	11	31
West Wycombe Rural.....	556	1,836	10	34
Wooburn.....	2,184	7,161	26	81
Chepping Wycombe Rural..	2,449	8,080	34	122
Totals.....	13,771	45,333	205	719

CESSPOOL EMPTYING 1958.

I am also indebted to your Engineer and Surveyor for the following figures:-

District	Area covered	Estimated Gallonage Removed,
1.	Speen, Lacey Green, Gt & Lt Hampden, Butlers Cross, Terrick, Ellesborough, Loosley Row, Parslow Hillock, Bradenham, Dunsmore, Bryants Bottom, North Dean, Hughenden Valley.....	2,436,000
2.	Princes Risborough, Monks Risborough, Bledlow & Bledlow Ridge, Longwick, Meadle, Ilmer, Saunderton, Kimble, Marsh, Horsenden, Asnett, Whiteleaf, Bradenham, Pictonville, Owlswick, Loudwater....	2,589,500
3.	Tylers Green, Penn, Hammersley Lane, London Road, Queensmead, Fassetts Road, Norwood Road, Robinson Road, (Part Loudwater).....	2,683,000
4.	Stokenchurch, Radnage, Water End.....	3,459,500
5.	Naphill, Walters Ash.....	1,945,500
6.	Gt & Lt Marlow, Sheepridge, Frieth, Ibstone, Fawley, Hambleton, Cadmore End, Turville, Skirmett, Medmenham, Fingest, Bovington Green, North End, South End.....	1,798,000
7.	Hazlemere, Holmer Green, Dashwood Hill, Horsley Green, Studley Green, Beacons Bottom, Terriers, Eastern Dene.....	2,945,500
8.	Flackwell Heath.....	2,214,500
9.	Gt Kingshill, Widmer End, Four Ashes, Cryers Hill, Prestwood, Spurlands End, Western Dene.....	3,393,000
10.	Wooburn, Wooburn Green, Cores End, Hawks Hill, Berghers Hill, Upper Bourne End, Kingsmead Road, Hedsor, Heavens Lea, Harvest Hill, Wooburn Moor.....	2,423,000
11.	Bourne End, Well End.....	2,219,000
12.	Downley, Piddington, Lane End, Wheeler End, (West Wycombe Part), Bolter End.....	2,493,500
13/15	Extra Vehicles used in all Districts.....	3,979,260
	Total.....	34,589,260

RAINFALL 1958.

I am indebted to the Director of the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, for the following particulars of rainfall recorded during 1958.

Rainfall recorded at Princes Risborough.

Station: 333 feet above sea level.

Month	Monthly Rain- fall. Inches	No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured.	Largest Rainfall	
			Date	Amount Inches
January.....	2.93	18	28	0.68
February.....	2.52	16	24	0.73
March.....	1.69	10	30	0.60
April.....	1.31	7	5	0.45
May.....	2.34	17	15	0.48
June.....	3.76	16	26	1.02
July.....	2.44	19	25	0.55
August.....	2.58	19	18	0.50
September.....	5.25	17	3	1.47
October.....	2.67	16	4 & 12	0.46
November.....	2.53	14	1	0.93
December.....	3.16	20	18	0.56
Totals.....	33.18	189		

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1958.

Public Health Department,
28, High Street.
High Wycombe.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit a Summary of the work carried out
by the Department in the year 1958.

I am

Mr Chairman, My Lord,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.P. PERRY.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

FOREWORD.

Health is a subject of paramount interest to every human being.

The improvement in the environmental health service has contributed to a large measure of comfort and well being in many areas of the country.

Preventive medicine however, is not always given the evaluation it deserves, but undoubtedly the increasing economic pressure of the cost of sickness will result in a new appraisal, and the prevention of disease and promotion of health will be regarded as more important than the curative or palliative medicine which claims so much attention at the present time.

It is interesting to conjecture how much of that which has been spent in the field of curative medicine, if used in the promotion of preventive medicine in environmental health would have ultimately reduced the heavy burden incurred by the high incidence of illness associated with occupational conditions.

Clean food, clean air, clean water, good housing, good sanitation are foundation stones of a healthy nation. It is this sphere of environmental hygiene which daily claims the attention of the public health inspector, his work taking him into houses, shops, factories, places of public entertainment and everywhere that people live or work or gather.

Legislation alone however does not secure good health, and increasing reliance is placed not on the exercise of legal powers to secure further advances, but on education and persuasion. The success of any health service depends on the people's understanding of its purpose, their acceptance of its value and their active support.

The Council's participation in the field of environmental hygiene is reflected to some extent in the report submitted under the following sections:-

Section 'A'	HOUSING
Section 'B'	WATER SUPPLIES
Section 'C'	SANITATION
Section 'D'	PEST INFESTATION CONTROL
Section 'E'	SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES
Section 'F'	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS
Section 'G'	ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT
Section 'H'	MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 'A'

HOUSING.

Of all matters dealt with by the public health department, housing is a major duty.

To maintain and improve housing standards, to clear areas where improvement is impracticable and to control and solve the varying questions of unsatisfactory accommodation and overcrowding have always claimed prior attention.

Standards.

In previous annual reports I have stressed the inadequacy of the present penal standard of fitness ignoring as it does such matters as provision of bath, hot water supply, internal water closet, heating of rooms and artificial lighting.

The standard by which a house is judged to be fit for human habitation has been lowered in recent years, and the degree of repair required to justify an increase under the Rent Act, 1957, is at a level below even that of the reduced standard of the Housing Act,

Such standards conflict with a policy which must surely be to secure for every family in the land a home structurally sound and free from any defects which would render it unfit for habitation, and also satisfy modern standards of comfort and convenience. Housing is a progressive science and standards must constantly advance.

The back to back house was once recognised as good housing accommodation, the water closet as a substitute for the privy was not readily accepted, an internal sink in a working class house was regarded as quite unnecessary, and the bathroom a luxury pre 1914. The luxury of yesterday becomes the common place and necessity of to-day.

What shall be done to equip structurally sound and basically fit houses with amenities now considered essential to our modern way of living?

Should the present fitness standard in the Housing Act be made more stringent or should there be an improvement standard which the local authorities could enforce? Or is the solution municipal ownership?

Improvement Grants.

It has been stated that 80 per cent of the improvement grants has gone to the owner-occupier. The owner-occupier is entitled to benefit from the scheme but the improvement of tenanted houses is equally important.

Generally the percentage of grants made is still small in relation to the potential number of eligible properties. So far landlords have shown comparatively little interest in the improvement grants scheme and experience of this does not encourage the hope that voluntary modernisation is likely to be successful on a wide scale.

The Rent Act, 1957.

Rent increases for controlled houses and the decontrol of a substantial number of larger houses should enable landlords to carry out essential repairs and maintain their property in a satisfactory condition.

The number of certificates of disrepair issued by local authorities is relatively small. This should not be regarded however as indicating the general fitness of houses. It is more likely to be attributed to the unfounded fear of eviction, or of court proceedings, to a lack of interest by the tenants or hesitation on the part of owners to increase the rents of houses requiring repair, than to be due to the absence of items of disrepair.

Re-housing.

The exchequer subsidy for dwellings for persons displaced from unfit houses remains at £22.1s.0. per annum per dwelling for 60 years.

The curtailment of Council house building has retarded the re-housing of families from unfit houses. This is regrettable. It is unfair for the occupiers of sub-standard houses to be left to live in existing conditions for long periods and it is to be hoped that the action of re-housing such families will be accelerated.

Housing Action.

At the end of 1955 the Council submitted for the Ministry's approval proposals for dealing with unfit houses liable to demolition within the district.

Implementation of the proposals have steadily proceeded in the ensuing years and the position at the end of 1958 is recorded in the accompanying tables.

	<u>Number of houses</u>
Total houses to be dealt with	451
<u>Formal Action</u>	
(a) Houses the subject of undertakings to make fit for human habitation	144
(b) Houses the subject of undertakings not to use for human habitation when vacated	96
(c) Demolition orders made	54
(d) Houses the subject of formal housing action - decisions pending	28
<u>Informal Action</u>	
(e) Houses made fit for human habitation	118
(f) Houses demolished	4
(g) Total houses dealt with by formal/informal action .	444

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Proceedings under the Rent Act 1957:-

Part I. Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

(1) Number of applications for certificates	21
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates	21
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	15
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso in paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
(6) Number of certificates issued	9

Part II. Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates.....	8
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	1
(9) Decision by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants objection.....	Nil
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority.....	4

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 5, 10 & 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, (informal notices)..... | 9 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs..... | Nil |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of notice..... | 9 |

(b) Proceedings under Sections 16, 18 & 23 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957..... | 60 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made..... | 5 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses the subject of undertakings not to use for human habitation when vacated..... | 20 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses the subject of undertakings to repair..... | 21 |
| (5) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders..... | 4 |
| (6) | Number of dwelling houses repaired as a result of undertakings given by owners..... | 35 |
| (7) | Number of demolition orders revoked..... | 4 |

(c) Proceedings under the Public Health Act 1936:-

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (1) | Houses in which defects were remedied after the service of informal/formal notices..... | 88 |
|-----|---|----|

SECTION 'B'

WATER SUPPLIES.

The importance of a pure and adequate water supply cannot be over-emphasised. The improved standard in the purity of public water supply together with more adequate resources have contributed towards eliminating diseases and the prospect of the longer life of to-day.

A comparatively short time ago a few buckets of water per day per household were all that were considered essential. Improved sanitation and hygienic conditions and the many personal water using appliances have changed that aspect to such an extent that to-day water supply has become an increasingly essential factor in our ways of life and exerts a large influence upon industry and population trends.

The water undertakings in the Council's district comprise:-

1. Wycombe Rural District Council.
2. Wycombe Borough Council.
3. The Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.
4. The Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Company
5. The Marlow Water Company.
6. The Bucks Water Board.

There are comparatively few houses which are not within reach of public water mains. The occupiers of some houses, however, still derive their water from wells and rainwater tanks. In certain cases individual properties are away from lines of mains, in other cases owner-occupiers with limited incomes are reluctant to incur the cost of a main water supply, whilst the occupiers of other dwellings have a prejudice in favour of their individual supplies as compared with a main water supply.

Supplying main water to houses which are isolated often presents a financial problem which may be overcome by asking householders to make a special contribution towards the cost of extending the mains.

As a result of the Bucks Fire Brigade withdrawing their service of delivering water in times of water shortage to occupiers of houses situated away from the water mains, the Council arranged for transportation of water where needed.

During the year under review no request was made for the Council's service. In the event of water being delivered, arrangements had been made for such water to be tested for wholesomeness and chlorinating treatment carried out if warranted.

Supervision of water supplies is an important feature of the work of the public health inspector and sampling has been carried out wherever deemed to be necessary. Where adverse reports have been received after chemical/bacteriological examination of samples, owners have been requested to provide a wholesome and sufficient water supply.

The Council's water supply serving the parishes of Stokenchurch, Radnage, part of Bledlow-cum-Saunderton and Bradenham and derived from the boreholes at Lower Road, Bennett End, Radnage, has been regularly checked at source. All samples submitted for examination have been reported upon as conforming to a satisfactory standard of purity.

SECTION 'C'.

SANITATION.

Having regard to the development taking place in the district sewage disposal remains an urgent problem. Cesspool drainage is still the predominant form of drainage in the area. The deficiencies of this system are well known and have been stressed in previous annual reports.

It is pleasing to record therefore that the Hambleton sewerage scheme has been completed and that the sewers in this area will serve 151 properties.

The concept of main drainage throughout the district has been brought measurably nearer by the commencement of the Wooburn Valley Sewerage Scheme. Other schemes which await implementation will provide sewers in the areas of Stokenchurch, Hughenden, Hazlemere and Tylers Green.

SECTION 'D'

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL.

It has been estimated that the Common Rat population is at least as large as the human population of Great Britain.

Quite apart from their destructive habits causing them to be a factor of considerable economic importance, rats are definitely carriers of disease, and as such constitute an ever-present menace to the public health.

Rodent extermination is therefore a matter of major importance and this is reflected in the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which clearly defines the duties of owners and occupiers of premises and local authorities in the work of pest extermination. Rodent control is a community responsibility.

Experience over the last few years, coupled with considerable technical advances in the development of specialized poisons, has led to a widespread acceptance of baiting with poisoned food as the cheapest and most effective method of rodent extermination.

The only control measures which can be considered satisfactory are those capable of achieving complete clearance. The degree of success of any operation must therefore be measured by subsequent absence of rodent damage and not by the number of dead.

Workable Area Committee.

The Council is a constituent member of the South Bucks & East Berks Workable Area Committee and meetings of the Committee have been held at regular intervals.

The Committee is a most useful medium for exchange of views on rodent destruction work between members of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, local authorities and other associations engaged in the work of pest control.

Rodent Control Treatment.

The withdrawal of the Ministry's rodent destruction service from farms during the year under review necessitated a considerable increase of inspection work on farms by the Council's staff, having regard to the statutory duty imposed on local authorities by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1959, to survey their districts periodically and to secure that the districts are kept free from rats and mice.

As a result the Council decided to operate a rodent destruction service on farms at agreed charges.

Accordingly another rodent operator was engaged and the service inaugurated in August 1958. Farmers generally are co-operative and appreciative of the service and the rodent control work in this sphere is progressing most satisfactorily.

During the year under review as a result of survey and notification by occupiers of infested premises extermination of rodents has been carried out at dwelling houses, factory premises, food premises, refuse tips etc.

Details relating to the work carried out during the year are submitted in the accompanying table.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Type of Property	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All other (including Business Premises)	Total	Agricultural
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	16	14,103	841	14,960	348
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	194	33	227	24
(b) Survey under the Act	16	353	28	397	159
(c) Otherwise	-	3,426	510	3,936	34
III. Number of properties inspected (in Sec.II) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats Major	1	-	1	2	-
Minor	8	377	46	431	67
(b) Mice Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	1	18	15	34	44
IV. Number of infested properties (in Sec.III) treated by the Local Authority.	10	393	46	449	70

SECTION 'E'

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Food Hygiene.

The improvement of food premises has been most noticeable. The gleaming self-service store with its stress on hygienic packaging and wrapping: the use of perspex and polythene containers has great possibilities while the refrigerated display cabinets have greatly extended the range of perishable goods which can be sold by the ordinary shopkeeper.

Despite these improvements the incidence of food poisoning has appreciably increased in recent years.

Mass produced meals form an important part of the daily lives of millions of children and adults. Practices which in the domestic kitchen might be relatively unimportant, could be of serious danger in a communal kitchen. An unusually high temperature, and unusually low temperature in processing, lengthy storage, diseased meat or the presence of an infectious disease carrier amongst the kitchen staff can be factors contributing to food poisoning.

There are foodstuffs uncontrolled bacteriologically, where the food is acting as a medium for growth and where active multiplication of bacteria in food stuffs is an essential requisite for the occurrence of food poisoning. Meat dishes and egg products are often vehicles of transport for such organisms and far more careful control of home produced and imported animal products sold raw, either to the public or for manufacturing purposes is necessary.

In the meanwhile a high standard of domestic and personal cleanliness, discontinuance of re-heated meat dishes, careful cooking, quick cooking, adequate cold storage accommodation for foods both before and after cooking would reduce the danger of food.

Cafes, Restaurants & Food Shops.

The Food Hygiene Regulations have been in operation for a few years. The regulations are a potent force for securing very adequate improvements to food hygiene in this country. Effective administration combined with constant educational activity will undoubtedly secure a large measure of progress and improvement in food handling.

The shortage of catering labour may influence the development of food vending machines. Although automatic sales in this country are chiefly confined to cigarettes, chocolates and stamps, there is every indication their scope is being extended to ice-cream, fruit drinks, tea, coffee, sandwiches and fruit. The machines must of course comply with modern hygienic principles and be properly maintained.

Of future trends no doubt there will be a growing appreciation on the part of the public and food handlers as to the essentiality of certain food hygiene principles. Requirements which are reluctantly complied with today will be readily accepted in the future. The growing volume of foreign travel may result in a demand for more variety in food. As already mentioned automatic catering may be one of the most important developments in the next few years.

New aids to cleanliness, structural progress, improvement of fittings, increased mechanisation of the more laborious processes of food preparation, washing-up, floor washing, polishing and the like will continue. Food spoilage will also claim increasing attention and new methods are being developed. These include the use of antibiotics and the use of ionising radiations.

Supervision and control of the public food supply cannot be overestimated. Food and Drugs administration is therefore one of most important sections of the environmental health services. Inspection of food premises has accordingly claimed the attention of the Public Health Inspectors in order to ensure, where necessary, improved conditions and practices where food is being prepared, stored or sold for human consumption.

A summary of the work of the department in connection with visits to cafes, restaurants and food shops is as follows:-

Number of visits to food premises.....	928
Food rooms redecorated.....	45
Food rooms repaired (floors, walls, ceilings, windows).....	24
Wash-basins provided.....	7
New sanitary accommodation provided.....	6
Provision of constant hot water supply.....	8
Rodent infestation dealt with.....	27
Additional ventilation provided.....	6
Refuse receptacles provided.....	11

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice Cream

As in the case of all milk products, ice-cream is easily contaminated and particular care is necessary at every stage of its manufacture, storage, transport and sale to prevent it becoming contaminated and consequently dangerous to health.

Premises used for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream must be registered. During the year 1958 there were nine new premises registered for the sale of ice-cream bringing the total registered premises in the district to one hundred and twelve.

Supervision has been exercised at shops and particularly at sales by itinerant vendors. The practice of pre-packing ice-cream is extensively adopted and this practice considerably reduced the risk of contamination.

Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

Milk

Since 1949 important and far reaching changes have been made. The progress of the specified areas where only designated milk, i.e. pasteurised, sterilised, tuberculin tested can be sold, the general extension of the tuberculosis eradication and attested areas, and the regulation whereby pasteurised milk can only be bottled and capped on the premises are a few of the measures which have combined to reduce the hazards which previously accompanied milk production and distribution.

Misused milk bottles are very much a concern to dairymen and local authorities. and bottles which have been contaminated with concrete, paint and subject to various other methods of fouling and staining defy the most efficient washer and the scrutiny which is exercised at the washing, filling and delivery operations. The problem could be resolved by the offending persons appreciating the need for a clean bottle to be returned to the dairyman, or the trade selling cartoned milk.

Flavoured milk and orange drinks are becoming of increasing economic importance to the dairy trade today. It is not clear whether flavoured milk can be handled in a dairy or milk room as "milk products" are not defined in the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. It may be considered that orange drink which is not a dairy product should be kept strictly apart from all milk handling processes.

The dairy trade is looking for new outlets and sales. More mobile milk bars are in use, and the installation of milk vending machines is rapidly proceeding.

Poor quality milk is a cause for concern and it is to be hoped that effective measures will be operated in order to secure the necessary improvement.

Milk is almost free of tuberculosis and this has been achieved partly by the eradication of diseased cows, but most important of all by heat treatment. The position with *Brucella abortus* the organism that causes undulant fever in human beings and contagious abortion in cows is not so satisfactory. Heat treatment is the effective answer in order to prevent illness occurring through the consumption of infected milk.

Looking ahead when all herds are attested in 1961, and free from tuberculosis, it is probable that the only milk on the liquid market will be tuberculin tested heat treated milk. A minimum standard based on total solids will no doubt be prescribed and payment to producers will be on a quality basis. Cream which at present is outside the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and the Specified Milk Orders will eventually have to be heat treated as both milk and cream can carry disease.

Finally one can envisage milk being collected from the farms by tanker and the abolition of the milk churn.

Only milk which is heat treated or tuberculin tested can be sold in the Council's district which is a "specified area".

The Council's participation in administering legislation dealing with the production and sale of milk is reflected in the following information.

Number of visits to dairy premises	162
Number of visits to registered dairies	10
New dairy premises registered	Nil

Number of dealers' licences issued to use designation	
"Pasteurised"	21
" " " " issued to use designation	
"Tuberculin Tested"	20
" " supplementary licences issued to use designation	
"Pasteurised"	5
" " " licences issued to use designation	
"Tuberculin Tested"	6
" " licences issued to use designation	
"Sterilised"	4
" " cases of milk infected with tubercle bacilli ...	2
" " " " " infected with brucella	3
" " milk samples taken for biological examination ..	21

Meat Inspection

Section 3 of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958 which came into operation 1st August, 1958 requires each Local Authority to report to the Minister on:-

- (a) the existing and probable future requirements of their districts for slaughterhouse facilities, and
- (b) the facilities which are, or are likely to become available to meet those requirements.

Local Authorities have until November 2nd 1960 to submit their reports to the Minister and are obliged to consult organisations representing the interests concerned before submitting their reports.

As indicated in the preceding Annual Report the Council have already initiated meetings with meat traders, other interested organisations and members of neighbouring local authorities in order to determine the needs of the meat traders in the area in relation to slaughtering facilities.

The meetings were not conclusive, and measures are still being pursued with a view to assessing the requirements of the trade. No doubt further meetings will take place before a report is submitted to the Minister.

Once again I have pleasure in recording that the occupiers of the licensed slaughterhouses within the Council's area have been most co-operative in their efforts to maintain satisfactory food hygiene standards and to ensure that animals are humanely treated.

The Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 to 1954 requiring the stunning of animals by means of mechanically operated instruments and the licensing by the local authority of slaughterhouses together with other matters relating to slaughterhouse practices have claimed the attention of your Officers. These enactments have generally been well observed.

All animals killed in the slaughterhouses within the Council's area have been examined by your Officers.

The amount of meat condemned has again been comparatively small due to selective buying by the butchers and the purchase of animals reared locally, resulting in a minimum of transportation with consequent reduced risk of bruising.

In this section of the report it is not inappropriate to consider another aspect of food preparation which is rapidly expanding viz. the processing of spring chickens or broilers as they are now called, these birds being ten to twelve weeks old.

Trade inspired statistics reveal that forty million chickens were marketed during 1958. This year, seventy million will be produced and in four or five years time it is estimated that four hundred million are expected to find their way to the British dinner plate.

In a typical broiler plant the birds are killed, bled, put into plucking machines, singed, eviscerated, eviscerated carcasses washed and placed into chill-tanks. The carcasses are then placed in diaphane envelopes and subsequently loaded into blast freezers. The birds emerge in a hard frozen condition and are packed in cartons in readiness for delivery.

Establishment of such plants places new responsibilities on Local Authorities, and premises within the Council's district have been the subject of inspection by your Officers.

Details relating to the animals killed in the slaughterhouses within the Council's area are set forth in the accompanying table.

MEAT

Carcases inspected and condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	348	52	74	1,187	1,225	-
Number inspected	348	52	74	1,187	1,225	
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :-</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	3	5	-
Part carcass or organ condemned.	27	9	4	18	21	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci..	7.7	17.3	6.7	1.8	2.3	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>						
Whole carcass condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcass or organ condemned....	6	7	-	-	14	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	2.0	13.5	-	-	1.1	-
<u>Cysticercosis :-</u>						
Part carcass or organ condemned....	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses refrigerated	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned..	-	-	-	-	-	-

These figures represent a total carcass weight condemned of
3 cwt. 7 lbs. and weight of offal 13 cwt. 2 qtrs. 24 lbs.

SECTION "F"

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Factories

The factory premises registered with the Council number 164 .

The tables submitted herewith contain statistical information required by the Ministry of Labour & National Service, and include the work of the Public Health Inspector in relation to factory administration as it concerns the local authority.

Matters claiming attention include cleanliness, ventilation, lighting, sanitary accommodation and means of escape in case of fire. A number of factories have canteens and are therefore subject to the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Homework

A provision of the Factories Act 1937 requires firms employing outworkers to furnish to the local authority twice yearly lists giving the names and addresses of persons carrying out specified work connected with the business of the factory at premises outside the factory.

Homes of the outworkers should conform to a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene.

The lists submitted to the Council showed that outworkers were principally employed on the making and altering of wearing apparel.

1. Inspections made for Provisions as to Health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities....	10	18	2	Nil
(2)Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	154	129	9	Nil
(3)Other Premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex.out workers premises) ...				
Total	164	147	11	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted.
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspec- tor	By H.M. Inspec- tor	
Want of cleanliness	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temp- erature	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate venti- lation	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient.....	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	6	Nil	7	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals.....	13	12	Nil	7	Nil

Number of Certificates issued relating to the provision of sufficient means of Fire Escape

..... 6

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list required Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel Making etc.....	54	-	-	-	-	-
Household Linen	8	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace curtains & nets..	12	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers.....	6	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	80	-	-	-	-	-

Rag Flock

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, forbids the use of filling materials to which the Act applies for such purposes as upholstery and the stuffing of bedding, toys and baby carriages except on premises registered by a local authority.

Three premises were approved for registration during the year under review bringing the total of registered premises to 22.

Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are given by Regulations and penalties are prescribed for using unclean material.

Accordingly premises have been visited, records checked and samples of rag flock taken where deemed necessary. Generally the filling materials were found to be marked with the British Standards Institution mark signifying that the materials comply with the prescribed standards of cleanliness.

Two samples of rag flock however, did not conform to the prescribed standard of cleanliness. After due consideration of the facts of these cases, the Council decided not to institute legal proceedings in connection with the contraventions involved.

SECTION "G"

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

Clean Air Act

The Clean Air Act came into full operation in 1958. Since the London Smog in December 1952 the most important advances ever made in the long history of the campaign against polluted air have taken place, resulting in completely new legislation and more important still a striking advance in public conscience and understanding of the problem.

Although implementation of the Clean Air Act is gaining momentum a vast amount of work remains to be done.

Industry has for the most part become well aware of its responsibilities and has willingly accepted them. The initiative for domestic smoke prevention lies in the hands of the local authorities, through the establishment of smoke control areas. In this connection houses fitted with approved appliances on new estates form an ideal start to a programme of smoke control areas. The domestic chimney is responsible for more than half the total smoke from all sources.

The emission of smoke, grit and other pollutants is a public nuisance, damaging to health, buildings and plants; in any case the emission of dark smoke is an indication of wastage of money and fuel.

Control measures which the Council are at present operating in order to prevent atmospheric pollution include:-

- (1) Action where necessary against the emission of dark smoke and securing the minimum emission of grit and dust.
- (2) Ensuring that new industrial furnaces are not installed unless they are capable so far as practicable of being operated without emitting smoke.
- (3) Regulating the height of chimneys in connection with the erection or extension of industrial buildings.
- (4) Implementing byelaws which require all new buildings to be equipped with smokeless fuel appliances.

The Act if properly implemented will have an impact as great as other major Public Health Laws had in the past resulting in a healthier and happier life for future generations.

SECTION "H"

MISCELLANEOUS

Moveable Dwellings

It has been said that caravan sites are an admission of failure to build houses or make available houses at prices which the people can afford. Most of the people living in caravans would prefer to be in houses.

The use of sites for holiday and residential purposes has necessitated the Council reconciling these needs to public health standards and protection of existing amenities.

Accordingly sites have been the subject of 614 visits and 95 licences were issued during the year under review.

Ten caravans were removed from sites as a result of the Council's intention to take formal action in respect of contravention of the Public Health Act arising from such occupations.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metals & Marine Stores

Section 86 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1957 requires every person who carries on a business as a dealer in old metal or as a marine dealer to register his name and place of abode and business with the local authority. Records must be kept in relation to articles purchased by such dealers.

Registrations affected in relation to businesses in the district number 12.

The National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 50

A local authority has the responsibility to arrange for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or has been found dead, in the area, providing that no other suitable arrangement has been made for the burial.

During 1958 the Council was called upon to arrange for the burial of two persons.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act regulates the sale of pet animals making provision for the licensing of pet animal shops and imposing conditions for the animals to be accommodated and cared for in a satisfactory manner.

Two shops were licensed during the year under review.

The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.

This Act makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale any heating appliances not fitted with a suitable guard.

No contraventions have been observed.

Licensing of Game Dealers

The Council granted two licences authorising dealers to buy and sell game.

Hairdressers

The Council approved the operation of Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act whereby all persons carrying on the business of a hairdresser or barber are required to register both themselves and their premises.

During the year twelve registrations were effected.

Registration of persons and premises will be followed by the introduction of byelaws designed to secure the cleanliness of premises, instruments, towels and cleanliness of persons employed in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

Infectious Diseases

Visits have been made in connection with cases of notifiable infectious diseases. Relevant information with regard to the history of the cases obtained and recorded, contacts checked and disinfection of rooms and bedding carried out. Details of the department's work is indicated below:-

Number of visits paid	66
" " re-visits	10
" " premises disinfected (tuberculosis)	20
" " premises disinfected (other infectious diseases)	33

Radiation and Public Health

Constant vigilance and action is necessary in order to maintain a healthy environment, and all engaged in public health work need to cultivate an informed and progressive outlook.

Included in the many duties local authorities are called upon to perform are the prevention of atmospheric pollution, supervision and control of food supplies, and ensuring wholesomeness of water supplies.

The increasing use of radio active substances and other sources of radiation present new hazards and radio -active materials may escape into the atmosphere polluting air, water, food and soil. The part to be played by local authorities in community health problems which may arise with the wider use of nuclear energy requires defining.

Noise

Noise has recently become an increasing topic of interest so far as Public Health departments are concerned. Noise is generally agreed to be irritating and harmful to the majority of people, according to their temperament and occupation, and may affect their health.

Noise assails us on all sides from innumerable sources in an increasingly crowded and industrialised environment research into noise emanation and the technical and legislative means of suppression is urgently necessary.

In the interim period the Council have adopted Section 51 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act 1957 which prescribes that any excessive, unreasonable or unnecessary noise which is prejudicial to health or a nuisance shall be a statutory nuisance. A degree of control may be exercised with this provision.

Workers in Non-Industrial Premises

Although there is legislative control of public health matters affecting persons in factories and workshops there is a notable omission in this respect with regard to persons employed in offices. Inadequate lighting and ventilation may occur and satisfactory standards of environmental hygiene ignored.

The number of persons employed in the country in all trades and occupations is about twenty three million, and the majority

are protected by adequate legislation to promote healthy environment, decent working conditions and means of escape in case of fire. The remainder comprising ten million non industrial workers are not so protected.

The Gowers Committee in 1949 recommended that legislation be introduced to provide non industrial workers with healthy and safe working conditions. Ten years have now elapsed and implementation of the Gowers report should be effected without undue delay.

CONCLUSION

I trust that this report has given some indication of the Council's work towards improving environmental hygiene.

Law relevant to these matters is often involved, complicated and ambiguous and administration is made difficult on that account. These shortcomings and resultant frustrations present a challenge calling for renewed effort in order to maintain and improve upon the standard of environmental hygiene we now enjoy.